



BorderLabs CE Newsletter



BorderLabs CE Newsletter - Issue #2 is here!

From ideas to real action – discover how BorderLabs CE is building stronger cross-border cooperation across Central Europe!

In this issue, we dive into the **regional kick-off events** energising our pilot areas, an **expert workshop on cross-border spatial planning**, hands-on work with **local stakeholders** to boost cross-border product marketing, a **thought-provoking Double City Dialogue** on “Dealing with Difference”, and read about our **findings based on questionnaire survey** on regional challenges and needs.

News

BorderLabs CE project partners meet in Dresden

On 6 May 2025, the partners of the BorderLabs CE project held a partner meeting in Dresden, hosted by the Saxon State Ministry for Infrastructure and Regional Development. The meeting provided an important opportunity to review the progress of pilot activities, present the assessment report outlining joint cross-border challenges and needs, and coordinate on upcoming key events. Participants also discussed ongoing communication efforts and addressed financial reporting procedures.



BorderLabs CE holds thematic workshop on cross-border spatial planning in Dresden

On 7 May 2025, the city of Dresden hosted the first thematic workshop of the BorderLabs CE project. Organised by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of Saxony, the event convened experts and practitioners to share innovative tools and experiences in cross-border spatial planning.





The BorderLabs CE project addresses one of Central Europe's major challenges: reducing the divisive impact of national borders. Through five pilot actions, the project explores and tests instruments in three interconnected areas: cross-border planning, participatory governance, and management of cross-border obstacles. These fields reinforce each other – effective spatial planning depends on empowered governance, and overcoming legal and administrative barriers is essential for successful implementation. [More information...](#)

BorderLabs CE partners visit Turów coal mine (DE-PL-CZ) to explore just transition challenges

As part of the partner meeting, on 8 May 2025, the BorderLabs CE project partnership visited the Turów coal mine in the Three-Country Area. The area is directly linked to the objectives of Pilot 1 on joint cross-border spatial planning. The site visit sparked meaningful discussions around the region's transition from a coal-based economy to a more sustainable, renewable future. Partners gained valuable insights into the complexity of ensuring a just transition, one that respects local history, listens to community voices, and creates realistic pathways toward a greener future. The visit reinforced the importance of inclusive planning in cross-border regions facing deep structural change.





Events

BorderLabs CE takes off across Central Europe: 5 regions, 5 regional conferences

The BorderLabs CE project launched its regional pilot activities in five kick-off conferences, tailored to the main focus of the pilot activity: cross-border spatial planning, participatory governance, cross-border sustainable tourism, cross-border marketing of local products, and tackling everyday border obstacles. Across all five regions, the kick-offs brought local stakeholders, civil society, and the wider public into the conversation – laying the foundation for collaborative solutions and a shared vision of border regions not as limits, but as laboratories for European integration.

Upper Austria: Tackling border obstacles (Pilot 5)

On February 25, Freistadt and Munderfing hosted the first regional kick-off, bringing together decision-makers and experts. Discussions zoomed in on healthcare cooperation, emergency services, mobility, and disaster response – key challenges for this dynamic cross-border region. [More information...](#)



Three-Country Area (DE-PL-CZ): Cross-border spatial planning (Pilot 1)

On March 12, the city of Zittau (Germany) became a hub for dialogue about integrated cross-border strategy in the Three-Country Area. Workshops explored how “mental bridges” – in areas like commuting, shopping, education, and health – shape the everyday experience of people living across borders, highlighting the deep interconnections that define border regions. [More information...](#)





Ister-Granum Region (Slovakia-Hungary): Cross-border marketing of local products (Pilot 4)

On April 24, the Slovak-Hungarian Ister-Granum EGTC organised a regional kick-off conference and Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) meeting. The spotlight was on removing legal barriers to the cross-border flow of local products, with a strong focus on empowering regional actors. [More information...](#)



EGTC GO (Slovenia-Italy): Pedaling toward sustainable tourism (Pilot 3)

In Gorizia and Nova Gorica, the April 30 kick-off celebrated the launch of a pilot focused on slow, sustainable tourism. Led by EGTC GO, the initiative aims to create a model based on bicycle mobility that links urban and peri-urban areas across the Italian-Slovenian border. [More information...](#)



Frankfurt (Oder) - Slubice (Germany - Poland): Twin cities and participatory governance (Pilot 2)

On June 2-3, the fifth and final pilot kick-off merged with the Double City Dialogue Forum in Frankfurt (Oder)-Ślubiце. The event tackled social, cultural, and political differences in cross-border cities, emphasising the importance of inclusive dialogue and shared identity in increasingly interconnected urban spaces. [More information...](#)





Documents

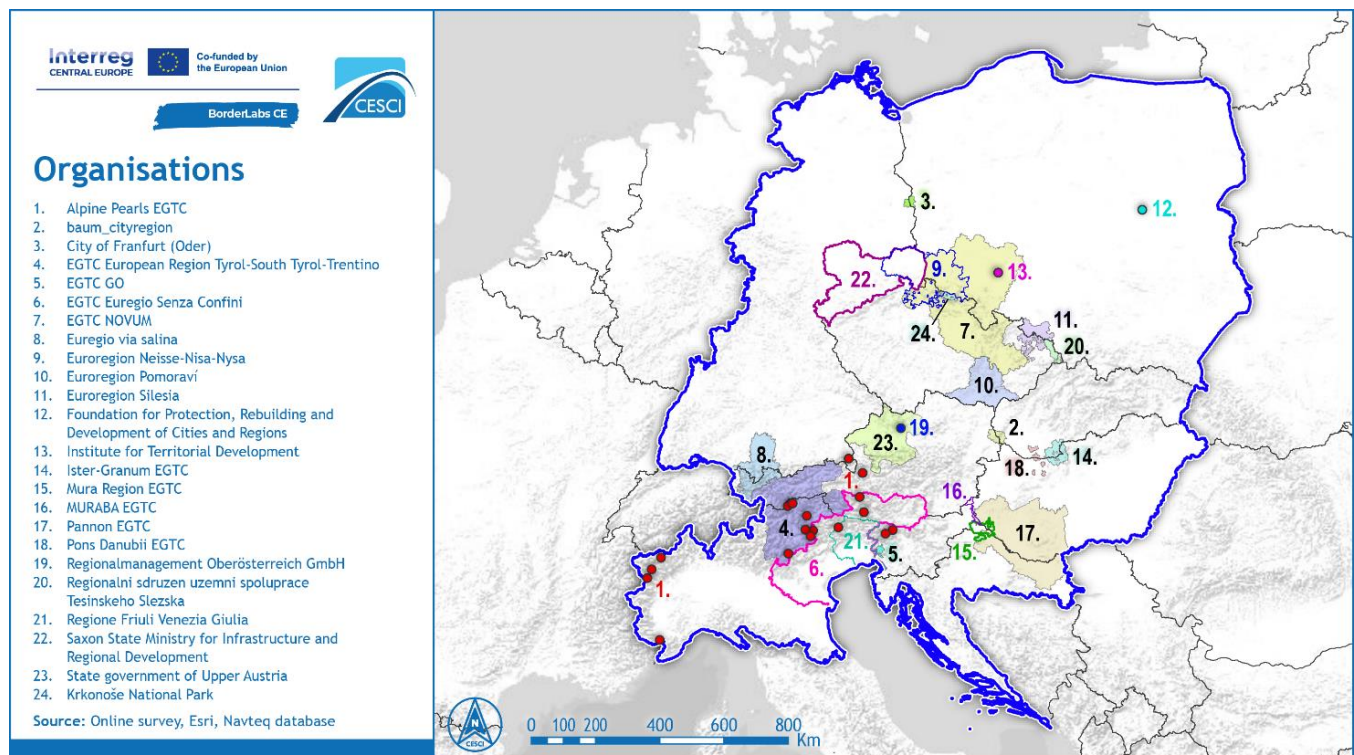
Assessment report highlights key needs for cross-border cooperation

The Assessment report on joint challenges and needs summarises findings from pilot action inception reports and an online survey conducted between February and May 2025, involving over 20 stakeholders across the BorderLabs CE programming area. Coordinated by CESCO, the analysis focused on identifying capacity development needs in three core areas: cross-border planning, participatory governance, and management of cross-border obstacles.

While most cross-border entities have strategic documents in place, the report highlights significant gaps – particularly in citizen participation and the capacity to overcome legal barriers. Stakeholders expressed a strong need for thematic guides, collections of best practices, and improved access to networks and support tools, including an online help desk.

These insights will directly inform the development of a multimedia learning platform, designed to provide digital resources and facilitate knowledge sharing.

Geographic coverage of the survey respondents:





Multimedia learning platform

First steps toward a multimedia learning platform: filming of pilot and project videos kicked-off

CESCI has developed a comprehensive plan for producing e-learning content as part of the Multimedia Learning Platform of BorderLabs CE project. The video materials will include 15 short videos – three for each pilot – along with five thematic pilot videos, a concise 2-3 minute project overview, and three animations highlighting key topics: planning, governance, and obstacle management.

FILMING SCHEDULE:

Pilot	Location	Date
PILOT 2	Frankfurt (Oder)	3 June 2025
PILOT 4	EGTC Ister-Granum	26 June 2025
PILOT 5	Upper Austria	2-3 July 2025
PILOT 1	SMIL, IRT, ER Nisa, EGTC NOVUM	15-16 July 2025
PILOT 3	EGTC GO	21-22 October 2025

GET READY FOR ...

...an exciting lineup of **BorderLabs CE** events: a partner meeting with a field trip in Gorizia/Nova Gorica on slow tourism, the influential MITTELEUROPA conference, the mid-term assessment of pilot actions, engaging RSG meetings, and the rollout of our multimedia learning platform!

This project is supported by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme with co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund. For more information visit <https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/borderlabs-ce/>.